Supply of boots and shoes to armed Forces

2339. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the armed forces in pursuance to the Cabinet decision of Government of India taken way back in 1969 or so have not been utilising the total installed capacity available for production of DMS (double moulded sole) boots and shoes from the Central Government Public Sector Undertakings on the plea of higher cost etc.

(b) whether the forces have not got settled the quesion of higher cost either from the Cost Accounts branch or Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP);

(c) whether the procurements made from the private suppliers either get delayed due to dearth of their capacity or bears lack of quality which ultimately affected the forces which use them;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(e) the details of orders placed by each of the forces during the last three years on the PSUs, Ordnance Equipment Factory and the trade; and

(f) what further action is contemplated to utilise the existing capacity for better quality DMS/Shoes from the PSU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f) After fully booking the capacity of the Ordance Equipment Factory, orders for procurement of boots are placed on various suppliers including PSUs, in accordance with Government Orders in force from time-to time. According to orders presently in force, PSUs are not eligible for any price preference, but if the price quoted by PSUs is within 10 per cent of the lowest valid price bid, purchase preference may be granted to the public enterprise concerned, i.e, the PSU will have to make the supply at the lowest vaild bid rate. Under these guidelines, involvement of Cost Accounts Branch or Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) is not required.

All stores are purchased after inspection to ensure adherence to quality specifications. Private supllliers have been adhering adhering to the prescribed delivery schedule.

Details of orders placed during 1991-92 to 1993-94 in respect of DMS/Shoes are as under:—

	DGOF		PSUs		TRADE	
	Qty	Value (in Crores)	Qty	Value (In Crores)	Qty	Value (in Crores)
Army	6,00,000	17.31	1,65,975	3.15	Bil	Nil
Navy	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Air. Air Force	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,35,000	2·88

There are no complaints with regard to the quality of DMS/Shoes procured ex-trade.

Army Officers apprehended by civilian anti-corruption Deptt.

2340. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army officers apprehended by civilian anti-corruption department during last three years;

(b) whether these criminally involved officers were tried in the Civil Courts, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Army rules/court marshals stipulate imprisonment in line with civilians involved in such offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During the last three years two Army Officers were apprehended by the CBI while demanding and accepting bribes from private indiviuals.

(b) In one case prosecution has been launched against the delinquent Army Officer. Further action in the other case would depend on the final outcome of CBI investmetigation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Rocket firing by Pakistani Troops

2341. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the beginning of July, 1994, Pakistani troops fired several rockets across the line of control into Nowshera and Ghambir sectors of Poonch and Rajouri;

(b) if so, how many times Pakistani troops resorted to rocket firing in Poonch and Rajouri sectors since the beginning of 1994;

(c) what is the number of casualties, if any and the extent of damage in the border villages under rocket attacks; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Firing by Pakistani troops across the line of control in J&K is a regular feature. In recent past Pakistan has been firing rockets from across the line of control.

(b) During the period 1 Jan., 94 to 28 July 94, 53 rockets were fired in Poonch sector and 60 rockets were fired in Rajouri sector.

(c) There have been no reports of casualties on our side of the border.

(d) Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on national security and appropriate measures are taken as required.

Disappearance of MIG-21 trainer aircraft

2342. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a MIG-21 trainer aircraft with two pilots abroad has disappeared in the Chamba district and has not been traced so far; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) On July 19, 1994, a type 69B aircraft (MIG-21 trainer) with two pilots on board, got airborne from Pathankot Airfield at 0950 hours for a routine instrument/cloud flying exercise. Approximately 15 minutes after take off, the radar lost contact with it. Inspite of best efforts from base, no radar or radio contact could be established with the aircraft. Later, the wreckage of the aircraft was located on 23rd July, 1994. Both the pilots were killed.

Manufacture of Solar cells by Bharat Electronics Ltd.

2343. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics Ltd. is taking up the manufacture of terrestrial solar cells;

(b) if so, the present production capacity of Bharat Electronics Ltd.;

(c) whether Bharat Electronic also propose to export solar cells; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Bharat Electronics Limtied (BEL) have signed an agreement with M|s Spire Corporation, U.S.A., early this year, for setting up of manufacturing facilities for solar cells at their unit in Bangalore. This will be a new line of production for BEL. The facilities will be covered by the Electronics